



PJM Newsletter

September/October 2019

Update Letter



Dear PJM Volunteers and Friends,

We begin September by celebrating the feast of St. Gregory the Great. St. Gregory reminds us, "the proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist." Thank you for choosing to love and to share your love freely in Christ. Your love in action is greatly transforming the lives of many.

On Wednesday, June 26th Bishop Walkowiak visited with men at Bellamy Creek. Joining us for this visit were Director of Pastoral Services DJ Florian, our Administrative Assistant Elizabeth Klein and program volunteers Father Mel Fox and Gary Karr. Bishop Walkowiak celebrated Mass and heard confessions with the men in level II, level IV and the protective unit. Bellamy Creek was Bishop's first prison visit as the bishop of Grand Rapids in 2015. During his recent visit, he reminded the men, that just as Elisha left behind his worldly possessions to follow God's call, "we too are called to be disciples, to live our lives according to the gospel." God's call is a daunting invitation and one that demands a wholehearted commitment. The question is, how are we going to respond?

Kent County Offenders Success Resource Summit

On Wednesday, Aug. 7th the Prison and Jail Ministry hosted the MDOC Offender Success Kent County Resource Summit for returning citizens. This 2nd annual summit offered over 75 individuals, actively on parole or probation, the opportunity to meet with 23 support service providers. This event also included a free raffle, two breakout sessions on trauma and successful employment, and keynote presenter Mike Benson. Mike spent 11 years in prison; He committed his first felony at age 16. It seemed he was destined for a life of failure, broken relationships, addiction and pain. During his second prison stint, when faced with no vision for the future and the weight of his past, Mike decided to make a change. He is now a motivational speaker and author of "More than a Conqueror: Conquering your Past" and changing millions of lives around the world.





Parish Ministry and Catechetical Conference

We continue our plans and preparation for our annual Parish Ministry and Catechetical Conference. The 36th annual conference will be held on **Saturday, Sept. 28** at West Catholic High School. This conference will offer something for everyone to enrich your ministry experience. The Prison and Jail ministry will again sponsor program volunteers to attend. If you would like to attend, please complete this [registration form](#) and return it to our office no later than Aug. 25.

3rd Annual Restorative Justice Conference

As previously communicated, the Prison and Jail Ministry will host a Restorative Justice Conference on **Saturday, Oct. 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** at Cathedral Square Center.



This 3rd annual day-long conference has been organized by men incarcerated at Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility in Ionia. The theme of this year's conference is "Radical Forgiveness." This year's conference keynote is Kate Grosmaire, author of "Forgiving my Daughter's Killer: A True Story of Loss, Faith and Unexpected Grace." To learn more about Kate's journey please click [here](#).

One of the primary goals of the conference is educating the community about restorative justice and encouraging the creation and implementation of restorative justice practices within the local criminal justice system. These practices include developing legislative policy that offers victims an opportunity to participate in restorative justice circles prior to conviction. Restorative justice circles encourage meaningful engagement and accountability and provide an opportunity for healing, reparation and reintegration.

This conference is free, but registration is required. For more information and to register click [here](#).

3rd Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Mark your calendars for our 3rd Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on **Monday, Feb. 10, 2020**. I am excited to inform you that our guest speaker will be Father David Kelly C.P.P.S, executive director of Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation in Chicago, Illinois.

Please remember to read this newsletter completely. There is important information and resources included in the team updates and newsletter inserts. Thank you!

Peace,
Tricia

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Team Schedules

Carson City Team

[Carson City East and West](#)

Ionia Team

[Bellamy Creek \(IBC\)](#)

[Richard A. Handlon \(MTU\)](#)

[Michigan Reformatory \(RMI\)](#)

Kent County Team

[Kent County Jail Communion Service](#)

[Kent County Jail Bible Study](#)

[Kent County Juvy](#)

Muskegon Team

[EC Brooks \(LRF\)](#)

[Muskegon Correctional \(MCF\)](#)

[Muskegon County Jail](#)

Newaygo Team

[Newaygo County Jail](#)

Ottawa County Team

[Ottawa County Jail](#)

[Ottawa County Juvy](#)

Carson City Team

Mr. Gerald Erskine is the new Institutional Chaplain for Carson City. If you have not already done so, please introduce yourself and welcome Chaplain Erskine when you see him.

[Carson City Team Contact List](#)

Ionia Team

On Wednesday, July 31, we brought our Why Welcome All? Panel Discussion to MTU. We presented the panel to 30 CPI students. This panel will present at the Restorative Justice Conference in October. During this visit, I also met with the men planning the conference to finalize the agenda. In September, our Director of Communications Annalise Laumeier and I will meet with them again to record their portion of the agenda which will be presented during the conference.

As many of you know, the chaplain at Ionia Correctional cancelled our level V Catholic Service due to a fight that occurred between two prisoners during that service. However, if you are interested in volunteering at this facility when the service resumes, please contact me and I will inform MDOC to clear you for this facility. If you are an active volunteer, you will not have to complete new paperwork.

[Ionia Team Contact List](#)

Kent County Team

We are always looking to fill slots for the Saturday Communion Services at Kent County Jail. If you know anyone that may be interested in becoming a program volunteer, please have them contact Elizabeth at eklein@grdiocese.org.

[Kent County Team Contact List](#)

Below is the Kent County Bible Request Form. Use this when an inmate lets you know they have a release date and would like a Bible. Have them fill this out and we will mail a Bible directly to their home address.

[Kent County Bible Request Form](#)

Muskegon Team

On Aug. 29 Colin, at Brooks will be confirmed by Father Victor Kynam. Colin has patiently been waiting to be confirmed for well over a year. Please pray for him as he prepares to receive this sacrament.

Bishop Walkowiak will visit Brooks sometime this fall. He last visited Brooks in November 2016. During his visit he will celebrate Mass and hear confessions for both Level IV and Level II. Brooks volunteers are welcome to join us for this visit. Please look for more information coming soon.

[Muskegon County Team Contact List](#)

Newaygo Team

[Newaygo Team Contact List](#)

Ottawa Team

We are in need of more female volunteers at Ottawa County Jail. If you know anyone who may be interested, please have them contact our office.

[Ottawa County Team Contact List](#)

Below is the Ottawa County Bible Request Form. Use this when an inmate lets you know they have a release date and would like a Bible. Have them fill this out and we will mail a Bible directly to their home address.

Ottawa County Bible Request Form

Resources for Juvenile Detention Centers

[Catholic Icing Website](#)

[Jesus tells about a patient father](#)

[Only one man says thank you to Jesus](#)



Communion Service Sheets

September

[9-1-19 English Communion Service Sheet](#)

[9-1-19 Spanish Communion Service Sheet](#)

[9-8-19 English Communion Service Sheet](#)

[9-8-19 Spanish Communion Service Sheet](#)

[9-15-19 English Communion Service Sheet](#)

[9-15-19 Spanish Communion Service Sheet](#)

[9-22-19 English Communion Service Sheet](#)

[9-22-19 Spanish Communion Service Sheet](#)

[9-29-19 English Communion Service Sheet](#)

[9-29-19 Spanish Communion Service Sheet](#)

October

[10-6-19 English Communion Service Sheet](#)

[10-6-19 Spanish Communion Service Sheet](#)

[10-13-19 English Communion Service Sheet](#)

[10-13-19 Spanish Communion Service Sheet](#)

[10-20-19 English Communion Service Sheet](#)

[10-20-19 Spanish Communion Service Sheet](#)

[10-27-19 English Communion Service Sheet](#)

[10-27-19 Spanish Communion Service Sheet](#)

Newsletter Inserts

*Father Bill Nadeau:
How prison chaplaincy prepared him to be a parish priest*

Catholic Exchange - St. Dismas

Private Integrity by Ron Rohleiser, OMI

Prayer for the other

**Need help with reflection time resources?
Check out the websites below**

www.preacherexchange.com

www.homilies.net

www.sborromeo.org

www.grdiocese.org

PJM YouTube Channel

Prison and Jail Ministry Diocese of Grand Rapids Facebook